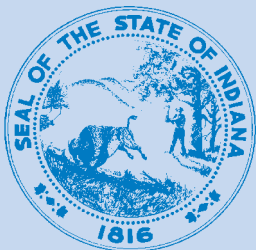


State Representative

John J. Day

The 2000 Session of the Indiana Legislature



How To Reach
Representative

John J. Day

RESIDENCE

937 E. Dr. Woodruff Place
Indianapolis, IN 46201
636-6601

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

House of Representatives
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786
232-9834
H100@ai.org

WEB SITE

www.state.in.us/R100

Spring, 2000

Dear Friends,

In a February letter I complained about our session having too many pre-election partisan speeches but went on to say -- just the same, I believe some worthwhile new laws will emerge from this 2000 session.

Some new worthwhile laws did emerge including help for parents, often single, who are unable to care for their infants and an increase in financial assistance for crime victims. The maximum award from the Crime Victims Compensation Fund has been increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Much needed increases in both workers compensation and unemployment compensation programs were approved and \$84.5 million will be spent on valuable health programs financed by the Tobacco Settlement Fund.

These new programs came together after much negotiation. A major disappointment was our inability for the second year to expand kindergarten opportunities. We know that youngsters at age 5 and even younger are eager to learn and we owe to them that expanded opportunity.

Serving on the House Public Health Committee gave me an opportunity to work on the Tobacco Settlement Fund bill. My contribution was an amendment that will result in greater state assistance to local health departments. Marion County's share for the first year will be \$96,000. For more details see inside.

Two nursing home bills regarding staffing and a proposal to provide state financial assistance for Indiana residents in the armed services who wish to attend college are reviewed for you inside this newsletter.

Let me also tell you about two guest reader programs at Harshman Middle School and St. Philip Neri School. Finally, in the Good Works Department this edition features the valuable child care services at East 10th United Methodist Church.

Well, you have heard from me, now I would be pleased to hear from you.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John".

John J. Day



Session News

New consumer information on staffing of nursing homes now available

House Enrolled Act 1311, sponsored by my friend Rep. Win Moses (D-Fort Wayne), will be of help to those concerned about staff questions like the ratio of staff to patients for each shift and job classification.

This new law, which takes effect on July 1, is somewhat like the consumers' right to know laws passed in recent years. The patient or a person(s) designated by the patient may request information that lists the names of all nursing personnel on each shift and the supervisor for that shift.

A notice to inform people about the new law will be posted in a conspicuous place in all Medicaid certified facilities.

Having this information will hopefully result in more accountability by the nursing homes and enable the patients and their families to make more informed decisions.

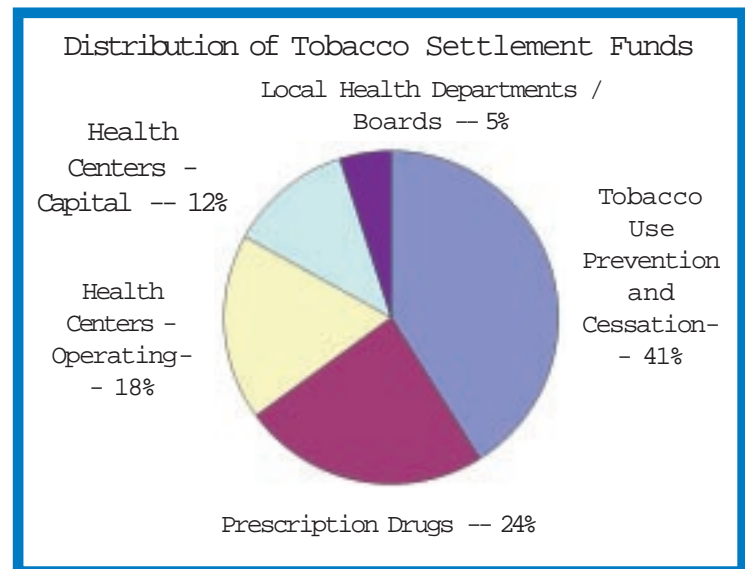
Tobacco Settlement

The Tobacco Settlement Fund bill came about because of the unexpected gift (money) to Indiana and the other states due to the several law suits filed against the tobacco companies.

This new money will enable Indiana to address important health needs, including those related to tobacco use. We learned in the hearings that unfortunately Indiana ranks 9th highest in the nation in tobacco related deaths and that about 90 percent of adult smokers started before their 19th birthday.

I was a co-sponsor of the House version of the tobacco bill, most of which was later merged into Senate Enrolled Act 108. Senator Larry Borst (R-Greenfield) and I had different versions of how best to support local health departments and our two ideas were merged into the final draft. The result is that health departments will receive \$4.5 million over the next 18 months. This is the first increase in state aid to health departments in 13 years. This new money will more than double state aid to these agencies.

As you can see from the graph, 41 percent of the settlement money -- \$35 million -- goes for prevention and cessation programs, \$20 million to prescription drugs for senior citizens and \$10 million for operating expenses at our community health centers. The two centers in our district: People's and South East, will receive some of these funds.



Nursing home improvement and student aid delayed

Seeking parts of last year's nursing home bill that all sides could agree to, a revised HB 1124 was approved. This bill would allow, with State Board of Health approval, up to 50 percent of the fines paid by the nursing homes to be used for staff training for those places not meeting standards.

This, of course, is not the full answer, but a modest step forward and the start of a much larger discussion/negotiation on how to improve nursing homes. Fifty percent of the fines amount to about \$105,000. The Governor's office said this was not a good use of the money and vetoed the bill.

Randy Hackler from our district, now in the military service, asked for assistance in correcting a gap in our law. Here is the problem. Our law providing state aid for students to attend college requires them to attend an Indiana college, thus Indiana military people stationed outside of our state are ineligible.

House Bill 1278 would have corrected this situation by allowing Indiana military personnel to attend an accredited college in the state where they are stationed and still receive the Indiana Higher Education Award (grants). The cost to the state would be about \$300,000.

I was especially disappointed that the Governor vetoed this bill. In November the Indiana General Assembly can vote again on these two bills and I hope we will do so.

The importance of reading and encouraging children to read

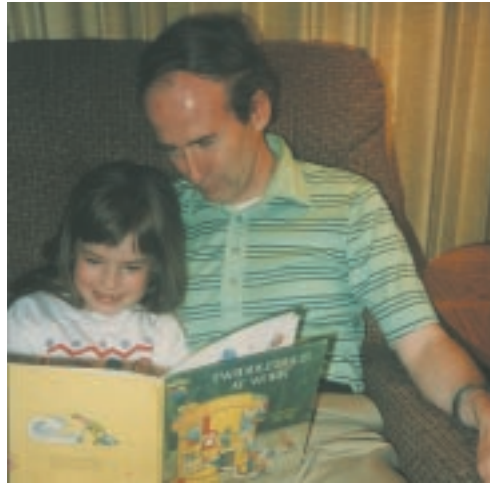
Among the benefits of being your representative are opportunities to visit schools, neighborhood groups and other organizations to promote and praise good works in our district.

Harshman Middle School (P.S. #101) for 10 years and St. Philip Neri School for 3 years have had a guest reader program where a variety of guests from the community visit the schools. The guests talk with the students about the value of reading, read a story to them and then discuss the story.

For several years I have been a guest reader at both schools; this year on March 2 at St. Philip and on March 28 at P.S. #101. The story this year focused on our dreams/goals and how necessary it is to have a dream, a goal.

We adults, especially parents and grandparents, can strengthen the chances for our children to succeed later in life if we encourage them to read and read with/to them in their early formative years.

Bringing our kids to the library or reading at home are inexpensive yet invaluable ways to share time with them and I encourage you to do so.



Booklets available

Contact my office for information booklets

Hoosier Fun and Facts - This information and activity book teaches elementary-aged students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

Relax... - This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education - A 24 page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Don't Be a Victim - This booklet offers helpful tips and other information on how to avoid being a victim of a scam. Some highlights include tips for avoiding telephone, mail and other types of scams.

Women's Health - Developed to offer tips to women on health issues, this short booklet encourages women to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The booklet also offers information about diseases which affect women.

The Good Works Department



I am always encouraged, and inspired by the efforts of a number of neighborhood organizations, civic groups and churches in providing needed services in our district.

In this newsletter, I want to focus on child care services offered by the Family and Children's Center at East 10th Street United Methodist Church. This four-year-old program offers quality child care to over 100 children per day. The Center serves very small children up through high school age kids.

The director of the program, Jean Casmir, praised the efforts of the dedicated staff and volunteers and the cooperation of the parents. Funds for the program come from both public and private sources and in a flexible fee plan based on ability to pay.

After a recent visit at the Center the thought/question came to me: how many parents from the neighborhood are able to be at their jobs on a consistent basis because they have reliable child care for their children? Also how many youngsters have been free of delinquent behavior because they have a safe, structured place to go after school?

East 10th United Methodist and a number of other churches with similar programs are providing invaluable services for our families and I salute their efforts.



Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indiana House of
Representatives

Rep. John J. Day

200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

Call the Statehouse

232-9834

***See inside to add your name
to my e-mail update group***

Printed on Recycled Paper (100)

State legislative web site

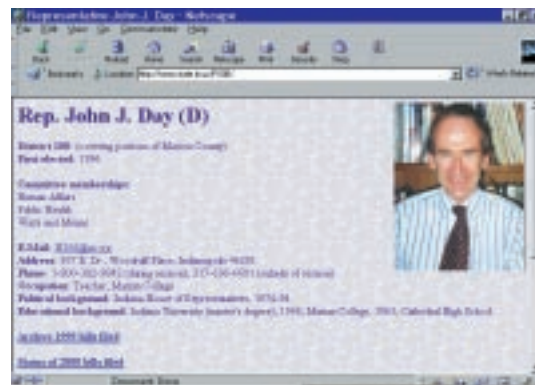
The state web site provides a great deal of information about state government, the legislative process and other related items. The main site at www.state.in.us offers a nice starting point to explore government in Indiana.

From that starting point, you can visit the home pages of elected state officials and state agencies. In addition, several premium services are available for a monthly fee.

I encourage you to visit my web site at www.state.in.us/R100 and explore various items related to the legislature.

A new feature on my web site will allow you to request various House publications. We currently offer publications specifically designed for senior citizens, grade-school children, and high school students in the process of choosing a college. Other publications give a general overview of various Indiana state agencies, offer a guide to women's health and advise how to avoid being the victim of a scam. There is also a booklet available which details every bill that became law during this year's legislative session.

You may also request booklets by calling my legislative office at 232-9834.



A screen shot of my legislative home page

Top Five State Web Sites*

1. State Job Bank
2. Hoosier Lottery Homepage
3. Attorney General's Unclaimed Property Search
4. General Assembly homepage
5. Dept. of Environmental Management homepage

*Based on number of hits as of February 25, 2000